

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9218

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY RYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1766

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, DA, UR

SUBJ: VISIT TO USSR BY SCANDINAVIAN LABOR LEADERS

REF: COPENHAGEN 1458

1. THOMAS NIELSEN, PRESIDENT OF THE DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO), WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE SCANDINAVIAN LABOR LEADERS VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION JULY 1-6.

2. THIS CHANGE IN HIS PLANS, NIELSEN TOLD AKTUELT, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY PAPER, WAS DUE TO "THE CRITICAL SITUATION" AT PRESENT IN THE LABOR MARKET IN DENMARK. THE COMMENT WAS INTENDED TO APPLY TO THE ECONOMIC SITUATION ABOUT WHICH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVT AND THE LABOR MARKET ORGANIZATIONS ARE PENDING, BUT THE DANISH PRESS HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE REALLY CRITICAL SITUATION PREVENTING NIELSEN'S PARTICIPATION IS THE CURRENT POLITICAL CONFLICT WITHIN THE DANISH LABOR MOVEMENT. NIELSEN HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FOR HIS OUTSPOKEN CONDEMNATION OF THE COMMUNIST-LED "CHAIRMEN'S INITIATIVE" GROUP IN COPENHAGEN.

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THERE IS CERTAINLY SOME SUBSTANCE TO THE LATTER ARGUMENT, BUT AN EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR WAS NIELSEN'S RESENTMENT TOWARD HIS NORDIC COLLEAGUES FOR HAVING UNDERCUT HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE RUEOPEAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (ETUC)AT ITS RECENT CONGRESS IN COPENHAGEN, AS SUGGESTED REFTEL, THE RELATIONS AMONG NORDIC LABOR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE NEVER BEEN SO STRAINED.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, GUNNAR NILSSON OF SWEDISH LO WILL TAKE NIELSEN'S PLACE. LENNART BODSTROM, SWEDISH TCO AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NORDIC TRADE UNION FEDERATION (NTUC), WILL LEAD THE DELEGATION, WHICHOTHERWISE INCLUDES TOR ASPENGREN, CHAIRMAN OF NORWEGIAN LO, NILO HAMALAINEN, CHAIRMAN OF FINNISH SAK, KARI TAPIOLA, SAK, AND JOHN SVENNINGSSEN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF NTUC.
CROWE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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